



The Stories of Ancaster's Homeless

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The Royal Gazette

YOUR SCHOOL. YOUR NEWSPAPER.

Beauty and the Beast Debuts!

by Ashley Barry

After months of hard work, the production of *Beauty and the Beast* opened with flying colours!



The cast and crew of *Beauty and the Beast* successfully pulled their acts together to put on six outstanding performances! Their audiences varied from students and staff, parents and siblings, and other members of the Ancaster Community and HWDSB schools. Amazing job, cast and crew! A special thanks to Ms. Turner for dedicating her time and energy towards the epic performances. It's a bittersweet time for the cast and crew who have become a family working together on *Beauty and the Beast*. However, many of the cast and crew are planning celebrations and are interested in a show next year!

*Alexa Gerencser
as Belle*

"Being the lead is lots of fun and hard work, and I'm motivated to do a great job."

*Ashley Smith
as Aristocratic
Lady/Ensemble*

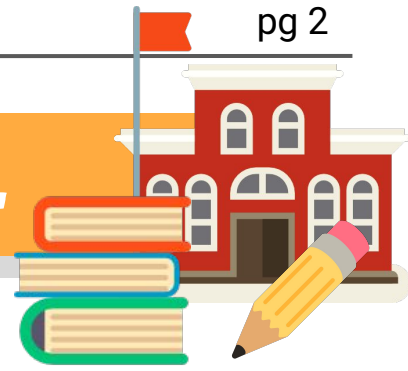
"Being ensemble means you have a whole creative platform to become your own character."

*Nathan Sommer
as Gaston*

"Good for my self esteem. A blast to work with such fun people."



01. AROUND THE SCHOOL



A Look at the Homeless Situation of Ancaster

The story of the Share the Warmth clothing drive and its attendees, told through the lives on the homeless in Ancaster

by Emaan Tora



Left to right: Volunteers at the food table serving food, a volunteer hugging a female attendee, a homeless man named Bob who came to the drive

On Saturday December 16th, Hamilton Downtown Mosque held their annual "Share The Warmth" clothing drive. Since 2011, every winter the mosque distributes winter attire and warm lunches, all free of cost. The drive, organized by the youth worker Fatmeh Abdelrazik, is directed towards helping the less fortunate and homeless individuals living in the Hamilton area.

This clothing drive brings together many people from all around Hamilton. While volunteering at this event I encountered many individuals with unique stories and views regarding Hamilton's current state.

The first pair I spoke with were a mother and daughter named Jane and Rose who came to Canada from the UK and have lived in Hamilton for 16 years. They had a lot to say about issues within the system. Jane said she believes there are many flaws in basic income support. "The structure of that could be better because it screens out more people than it includes". They believe Hamilton is impacted negatively as a result of gentrification. When asked why she believes these issues aren't being

resolved, Jane replied, "People in politics are not representing the people; more business than the people".

Both Jane and Rose were passionate about how we as a community can help out the homeless. "They do not want money or food, they just want to be acknowledged. Not for us to just keep on walking past them like they don't exist," Rose stated.

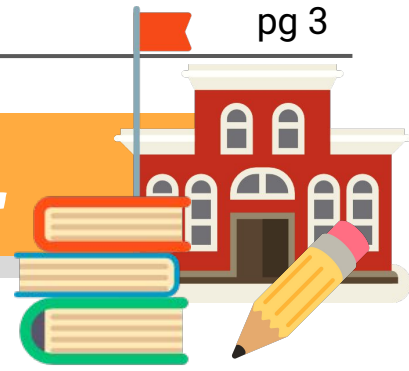
The next individual I spoke to was George, a homeless man in his mid seventies. George was born into poverty but worked hard and made a life for himself. His life hit a low when his wife filed for divorce and took custody of their home. In his time on the street, George has been attacked several times and hit by a drunk driver. He recently came out of the hospital with 37 stitches on his head, staples on his arm, a cast and acid burns from once trying to commit suicide and setting himself on fire. He now sleeps in a shelter and is struggling to make ends meet.

To this day, many people are uneducated and assume homeless individuals are in their situations as a

result of drug or alcohol use. However, this is not the case and George's story is the perfect example of that. These encounters made me reevaluate the way I view the homeless and realize that the way individuals end up in these situations is very circumstantial. As privileged individuals, we all have a moral obligation to do our part and help eradicate poverty. If you have any extra clothing or winter attire, please drop them off at your local Salvation Army or homeless shelter.

“ They do not want money or food, they just want to be acknowledged. Not for us to just keep on walking past them like they don't exist. ”

01. AROUND THE SCHOOL



Ancaster's Senior Girls' Group Reaches out to Help!

by Avery Oliver and Mary McDermott

Take a look at Mrs. O'Sullivan's senior girls group and how they helped out over the holidays.



On Wednesday December 20th, Ancaster High's Senior Girls Group took a trip to Wesley Urban Christmas Store to volunteer. Wesley runs a special Christmas store in Hamilton that is dedicated to people living below the poverty line in our community. Senior Girls' Group makes a yearly trip to help out and support these families. The group spent the day organizing and shelving food and gifts for Hamilton's less fortunate families. Ms. Dabor and Ms.

O'Sullivan attended with eight girls in grades eleven and twelve. Ms. Dabor runs and facilitates the group with the support of student services and administration. This amazing group meets weekly and focuses on encouraging the girls to become more involved in the school, mental health, wellness, and leadership. Each girl makes a difference in a small way, yet as a group they made a difference in a big way during the holidays.

The Elephant in the Room: Sexual Harassment



by Amilia Oliver

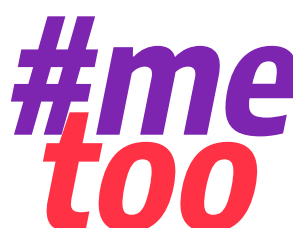
In recent months, many women in Hollywood have come forward sharing their stories about their experiences with sexual harassment and sexual assault in the workplace. The Harvey Weinstein scandal has sparked a huge wave of women coming forward, sharing their stories and experiences of sexual harassment and assault. Many of the women sharing their stories have taken to Twitter, using the hashtag #metoo. With a growing number of men in Hollywood accused of sexual harassment and assault, and the amount of women who are bravely coming forward to share their stories, sexual harassment and assault is becoming a topic that is more often addressed in our society.

To say the least, it is heartbreaking to think of what is going on behind the closed doors of Hollywood.

According to YWCA Canada, there are approximately **460,000 cases of sexual assault each year in Canada.** According to the same website, out of 1000 cases, 33 are reported, 12 involve pressing charges, 6 are prosecuted, 3 lead to conviction, and **997 perpetrators walk away freely.** The Government of Canada conducted an online survey, where **30% of respondents said they had experienced sexual harassment** in the workplace, and **3% said they experienced sexual violence** in the workplace. 94% of the respondents to this survey who said they experienced sexual

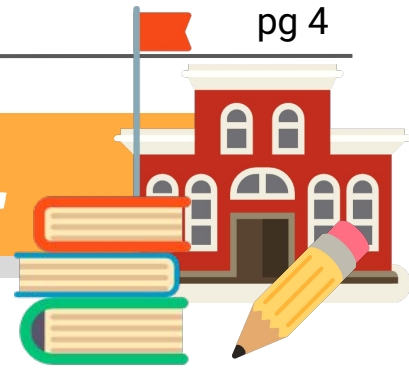
harassment in the workplace were women.

If you know someone who has been sexually harassed or sexually assaulted, it is important to support them; let them know that they are not alone and that it is not their fault. The best course of action in the wake of sexual harassment and sexual assault is to report it as soon as possible. This is not easy, but it is crucial in order to help promote awareness and a better support system for victims. Our culture is ready to change for the better, but it is up to our generation to change it for good.



Out of **1000** cases...
33 will be reported...
12 will be charged...
3 will be convicted...
997 will walk away free.

01. AROUND THE SCHOOL



How to Actually Keep Your New Year's Resolution

by Erika Ehrenberg

Tired of constantly giving up on your New Year's Resolutions? Check out our tips on how to stay motivated and positive!



It's that time of year again. 2018 is upon us, and with the new year comes an air of change and self-improvement. We all make New Year's resolutions, promising that this will be the year that we finally hit the gym, get organized, or try harder in school. But let's be honest with ourselves: when the next year rolls around, how many of us can actually look back and say we stuck with our New Year's resolutions? I'll be the first to admit that I usually don't make it past three weeks. So how can we make 2018 our year and stick to our resolutions?

It all starts with what you choose your resolutions to be. Don't overwhelm yourself by making a resolution list longer than your Boxing Day shopping receipt. Pick 1-3 key resolutions that you feel are interesting and beneficial to you. It will help you to want to stick with them when it gets hard, tiring, or boring. As well, make sure that your resolutions are things that are realistic and manageable, so that you have a better chance of following through with them. For example, your resolutions could be to learn how to cook, get better marks at school, and be more active.

Once you have chosen your resolutions, the next step is to make a

plan for how you will achieve your resolutions. Break them down into specific goals throughout the next year, and create a schedule for the year. That will allow you to measure how well you are staying on track with your resolutions. Set a goal for each month, or create a schedule with goals and activities that relate to your resolutions. For example, using the resolution of learning how to cook, you could set a main goal that you want to cook thanksgiving dinner for your whole family in October. To do that, every week you will cook one meal for your family, and you will compete in a local cooking competition in the summer.

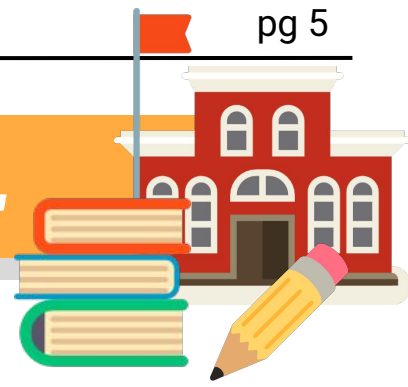
“Ultimately, the only person who can guarantee whether or not you will stick with your New Year's resolutions is you. So set goals for yourself, try new things, make positive changes, and make this the best year yet.”

The next step and most important thing you can do to help yourself stick with your New Year's resolutions through the next 12 months is to take action and be proactive. While you're still motivated and determined, do things that will set you up to continue your resolutions in the future. Using the cooking example again, you could sign up for cooking classes, follow cooking accounts on social media, and subscribe to a cooking magazine. Find ways that you can make your resolution fun and exciting, and keep you interested in them throughout the year.

The final step is to tell the people around you about your resolutions. If your family and friends know about it, they can help to support and encourage you to continue with them. Find people who will motivate you and keep you engaged in your resolutions. Whether it's someone online, someone you meet, or someone you already know, having someone who can keep you accountable and on track will help you to stick with your resolutions.

Ultimately, the only person who can guarantee whether or not you will stick with your New Year's resolutions is you. So set goals for yourself, try new things, make positive changes, and make this the best year yet.

01. AROUND THE SCHOOL



All About the Student Success Room

by Ayeza Tahir

What is it?

The Student Success Room is a colourful, inviting space at Ancaster High where anyone can get any kind of help, be it a mental health issue, a physical disability, a difficult family, a displeasing grade, a persistent bully, a hard time fitting in, a broken friendship, a growling stomach, a forgotten item or even a hot summer day. High school can be a tough time, and Ancaster High wants to do anything in its power to make it easier on its Loyal Royals. The Student Success Program makes this possible by providing a network of private support specifically tailored for each of its students.

Who runs it?

Ms. Fletcher is the school's Student Success Teacher. Along with a Student Success Team that has frequent meetings throughout the year, she is there to help all Royals through any specific problems they may face.

When is it open?

It is open most periods of the day and almost all week unless otherwise posted on the little whiteboard on the room's door.

Where is it?

It is located in Room 114, which was last year's math office. If someone is leaving the main office, they can turn right, walk straight down the main East Wing hallway, pass the first set of doors, and Student Success will be the first room on the left.

Why should anyone go there?

Everyone goes through bad situations. For some people, this means forgetting to brush their teeth one morning, and for others it means losing a loved one or struggling with depression. Student Success is available for the whole range of tough times. So, if there's ever a problem, grab a croissant from the red plastic container, put some lotion on your neglected hands, find a bean bag chair to lounge in, and relax because SS is here to help.

Semi Formal!

by Larissa and Alexa Koukouris

Semi was a big hit, with all the tickets being sold out and everyone had a lot of fun! A big thank you to all the teacher supervisors and our amazing DJs who made this wonderful night possible. If you didn't get a ticket this year, get yours quickly next time before they sell out!

Teacher Insider!

Inside *January's* featured teacher:

by Emily Outerbridge

Mr. Hendriks

- Head of the Math department
- Gr. 9 Enriched and Academic Math
- IB SL Math

This month, two members of the Royal Gazette team, Larissa Kouroukis and Lily McCowan went "behind the scenes" of the teaching life and interviewed Mr. Hendriks about what it is like to be a teacher.

RG: Why did you want to become a high school teacher?

H: I like math and I like that I can share that with other people.

RG: What are your expectations for your students?

H: I want them to try and not give up.

RG: What makes a good day at school?

H: When kids ask me silly questions; that's my favourite thing.

RG: What inspires you?

H: The kids in front of me. They try really hard so I want to try really hard.

RG: How do you keep your students interested?

H: Sarcasm and jokes.

RG: What is the worst/best thing about being a teacher?

H: Marking, that's absolutely the worst thing. The best thing is that I have a captive audience and I can make my jokes and everybody will laugh at me.

RG: What differences do you see in your morning classes versus your afternoon classes?

H: It depends on the day, so Monday mornings it's the zombie class, and then Friday afternoons is the wild class, but in between I wouldn't say there's too much of a difference.

RG: Does it bug you when students are constantly asking for their marks?

H: It does bug me. I will always tell them, but it does bug me. They should know if they know what's going on or not; that's usually good enough. Putting a number to a kid isn't really important.



02. SPORTS

The Sports World Outside Our School

by Ilijana Popovic and Ayaet Rakem



Basketball

It's that time of year again; voting season. The time when all basketball fans vote to see their favourite stars play and find out what side is best; east or west, although this year things are changing. There will no longer be east and west teams. We still get to vote in the 10 starters and the coaches still select the bench, but we also get to have a say in who gets chosen as the two team captains. Once the captains are selected,

they choose their team from the remaining 22 players in the talent pool. Now, the real question people are asking: if Russell Westbrook is selected as team captain, will he choose KD to play on his team or not? Guess we'll just have to wait and see! Don't forget to vote! Link can be found online or for easy access through the Raptors Instagram bio.

Soccer

El Clasico, which is popular among many soccer fans, is a label given to any soccer games between fierce rivals, FC Barcelona and Real Madrid. The most recent game, which happened on December 23, 2017, featured players Lionel Messi from FC Barcelona and Cristiano Ronaldo from Real Madrid, who is also the receiver of the 2017 Ballon D'Or, which is a prestigious soccer award given to the best soccer players in the world. Messi and Ronaldo are both thought to be the best soccer players in recent times and are always the center of debate among soccer fans. The game ended with a 3-0 win for FC Barcelona. Since the first El Clasico in 1929, FC Barcelona has managed

to win 112 games, while Real Madrid has won 99 games. Fifty nine games have ended in draws. The next El Clasico game is to be held on May 6, 2018, and is sure to bring lots of excitement for fans as the date nears!



Olympics

Can you believe it's already been two years since the Brazil Olympics and 8 years since Vancouver 2010? From February 9th-25th, the 2018 Olympic games will be held in PyeongChang, South Korea. This time without Russia participating, due to previous drug use in the Sochi 2014 winter games. With the hosting city being so close to North Korea, many think there will be problems throughout the games, but others say they pose no threat and by being so close, it actually helps. Their theory being, any damage done would also most likely harm North Korea. South Korea also seems to be facing some problems. The temperatures are freezing and at what is to be the Olympic

Stadium, numerous people have recently reported cases of hypothermia from attending events held there. South Korea is making many renovations and are hoping to help fix the problems before the Olympic games begin. Keep your fingers crossed that it helps! Lastly, make sure to keep an eye out for Canadian snowboarder, Mark McMorris, as he makes his return. Less than one year ago, Mark was in a backcountry crash in B.C. where he broke his jaw and left arm, ruptured his spleen, had a stable pelvic fracture, rib fractures, and a collapsed lung. His recovery has been miraculous, and he is now looking to be Canada's star snowboarder in the 2018 Olympic games!

Baseball

The Toronto Blue Jays, Canada's only MLB team, may be sold to an American company! The company Rogers, which owns the Toronto Blue Jays as well as other sporting organizations, has confirmed that they're thinking about selling the Blue Jays. This is because the Blue Jays are not making as much money as they anticipated, and Rogers wants to invest in other projects in 2018. If sold, Canada will no longer have an MLB team, which would disappoint baseball fans all across Canada, and is likely to result in less merchandise sold. Among other baseball news, there are rumours based around the New York Yankees. The Yankees are supposedly

trying to build the strongest baseball team. This is shown by recent trades involving the Yankees, which resulted in many trades for good players, such as Giancarlo Stanton. Another team trying to rebuild is the Miami Marlins. They have already traded off key players such as, Giancarlo Stanton, Dee Gordon, Marcell Ozuna, and recently placed their center fielder, Christian Yelich, on the market. Many teams want Yelich as he is a good player. The Blue Jays should take an interest, with Jose Bautista's contract expiring, they are in need of a good outfielder. Lots happening in this baseball off season and lots more is to come in 2018!

03. ARTS



Student Feature

Each issue, we feature art from Ancaster High's own students. This month, we showcase work by Cameron Daleo, Nathaniel Vandenheuvel and Sara Waxman.

THIS IS AHS

Slam Poetry by Sara Waxman

I'm not perfect. I'll annoy you and piss you off. Say stupid things, then take it all back.

But put that all aside, and you will never find a person who cares about you or loves you more than me.

Stop being afraid of what could go wrong and start being positive about what could go right. Nothing will ever go right if you're not positive.

There's so much negativity in life that it's sometimes hard to be positive.

You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only option you have. You have to believe in yourself because there are so many people that love you and care about you and you don't even realize it because all that is in your head is negativity and thinking about what could go wrong.

Switch your actions and the way you behave; brighten up and see a new world.

Untitled, by Cameron Daleo

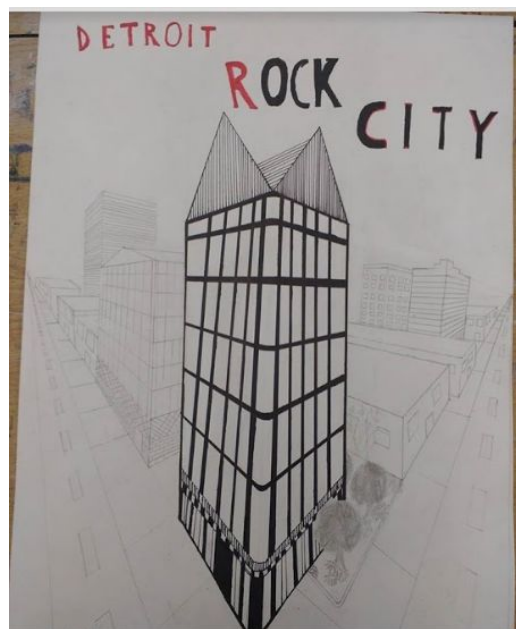
Every single regret I got
every single thought I thought
every single drink I bought
all alone, I'm an afterthought

I am young but got old eyes
what you think, what you despise
Try to grow up too fast
never knew it'd never last

Trying too hard to be a man
for the ones I thought I loved
push me up and push me down
I'm gonna walk up this town

It's time to be me
I'll make it, you'll see
highs and lows it goes, it goes
I can take my blows

"Detroit Rock City", by Nathaniel Vandenheuvel, Gr. 11



Life and Art Hacks

by Finola Smiley

1. Sharpie nail art

If you can't get a steady hand when making details with your nail polish, just get some Sharpies and you'll be able to make as many fine print patterns as you want.



2. Recycle your unused clothing

Do you have some clothes that you don't wear anymore? Websites such as YouTube have many knowledgeable videos that can inform you on just about how to change your used clothing into new renovated trendy items. Some options may include shirts to scarves, or shirts to bags. On the right is an example of a simple t-shirt turned into a fancier top.



3. Yarn art tips

Sometimes when working with yarn, it can become coarse and therefore difficult to use. Fortunately, your yarn can easily be softened in the dryer. Just remember to wash it prior to the drying it, and to put in a pillow case while in both the washing and drying machine.

4. Got extra pool noodles?

Smaller pieces of pool noodles can be put inside your tall boots to keep them upright and avoid wrinkles in the material.

03. ARTS



Lights! Camera! Action!

by Sophie Hughes



December was definitely a musical-filled month for Ancaster with both Ancaster High and Theatre Ancaster on the playbill.

As you've probably already heard, our own school put on an amazing production of *Beauty and the Beast Jr* that was heartwarming and comedic in all the right ways. It included a talented cast, dedicated crew, and impressive student leaders that worked tirelessly for an entire semester. The show may have even left some of you wondering about the role of theatre in our community and how you can get involved!

Besides Ancaster High's productions, there are also many other great opportunities for teens in the performing arts. One way to do this is by joining Theatre Ancaster, or another theatre company. Ancaster has been the home of Theatre Ancaster, a theatre company for all ages, for twenty-one years. Their most recent production was of the family-friendly, feel-good show, *Annie* which received a lot of positive buzz throughout its run. *Annie* was an instant hit, becoming Theatre Ancaster's best selling show to date. It is possible that this success is due to the show being a Main Stage production, which

means it included a mix of both children and adults on stage. There was even a live dog to play the role of Sandy! Since its opening, it was performed in our own auditorium for three straight weekends, as well as during the school day for local elementary schools to watch. *Annie* gained tons of media coverage from local newspapers too, with the Hamilton Spectator ranking Hannah Thompson, the actress who played Annie, in their top ten list for best performances of 2017. All in all, the show was spectacular, and hopefully encouraged more teens to become involved with either acting or behind the scenes roles.

However, it doesn't stop there. Theatre Ancaster always puts on multiple shows per year and there are even more coming your way in the upcoming months. Next to take the stage is *Elf Jr*, presented by the Stage 2: Junior Broadway group. This musical is derived from the beloved holiday film, and will include only children between the ages of 7-13. It is set to open in the beginning of February. After that, Stage 3: The Young Company will perform *Big Fish*, a new musical adapted from the Tim Burton movie. This time the age group is somewhat older, including only high school students in its cast (some from Ancaster High). There will also



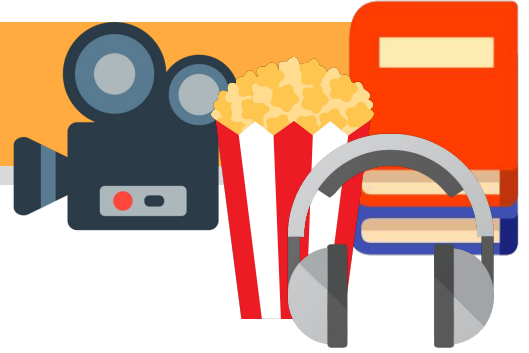
“Being involved in the performing arts can be an amazing experience for anyone.”



be a couple of concert style shows such as Theatre Ancaster with *Splendor in the Brass*, also in February, and the *Legends Gone Too Soon* show which will open in April.

Being involved in the performing arts can be an amazing experience for anyone, and hopefully after this, you all consider supporting, and becoming involved in theatre within our own little community.

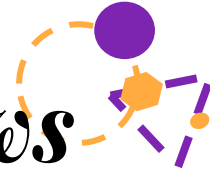
04. ENTERTAINMENT



December's

by Marwah Hosinyar

Book Reviews

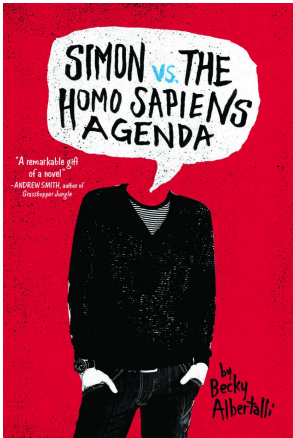


Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli

★★★★★ 5/5 stars

Meet Simon, a sixteen-year-old cynical Harry Potter fan who seems to be falling in love... via email, with a boy he's never even met, much less knows the name of. But, here's the thing, this anonymous boy seems to make Simon laugh and it all feels glorious. Except for the fact they both live in a small, close minded town and there's someone threatening to out Simon. Simon who prefers to save the drama for the school musical, must deal with the mess his life has become. But how?

Despite the fairly intense premise of this novel, the author creates a hopeful atmosphere of firsts. From first loves to first kisses, this story will make anyone feel warm and elated. So, grab this book, a blanket and let yourself slip into the happy daze this story will bring.



Upcoming Movies of 2018

by Adrienne Jonathan

The sweet enjoyment of doing absolutely nothing all Winter Break may be over... however, there are still some things to look forward to.



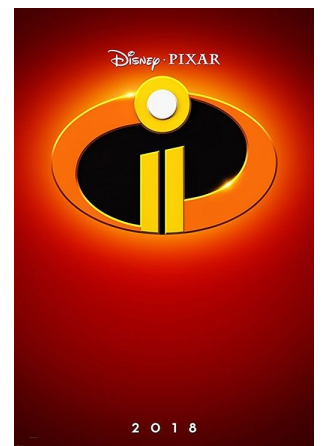
Black Panther

February 9th, 2018



A Wrinkle in Time

March 9th, 2018



The Incredibles 2

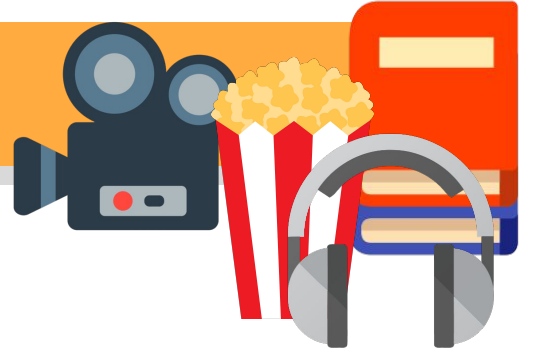
June 15th, 2018

For fans of the movie franchise, you may not know who the Black Panther even is. To sum the character up in one simple word: bad@\$\$\$. The movie will center around T'Challa (the Black Panther) working to defeat two enemies who wish to bring down the kingdom of Wakanda, a fictional advanced African nation. The movie stars Chadwick Boseman, Lupita Nyong'o, and Micheal B. Jordan, and takes place after the events of Captain America: Civil War but supposedly before the events of the upcoming Avengers: Infinity War (which means my boy T'Challa really overworked himself, like damn).

Starring Storm Reid, Oprah Winfrey, Chris Pine, Reese Witherspoon, Mindy Kaling, and Zach Galifianakis (yes I am also shook by that list of names together). A Wrinkle In Time is based off the 1962 novel of the same title. The movie takes the audience on Meg Murry's (Storm Reid) journey to save her father (Chris Pine) after he disappeared, using a tesseract device to travel to a new planet. This film will definitely be one to watch for on the box office as this is Disney's second try at bringing this book adaptation to the big screen.

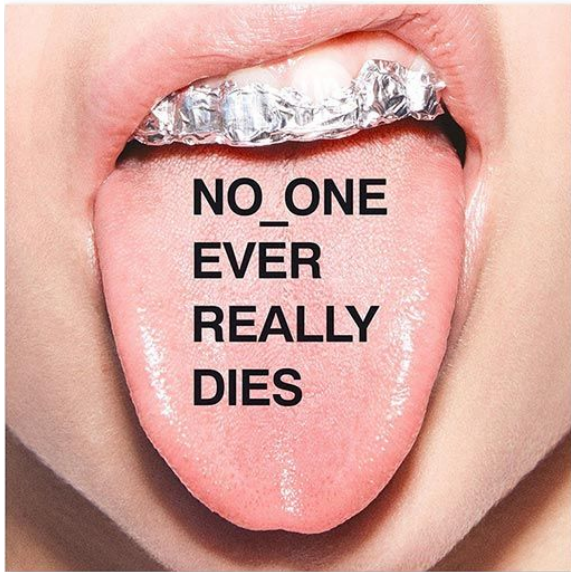
Honestly what else do I need to say -- you read the heading. The direct sequel to the beloved 2004 Disney Pixar film (and arguably the only good movie adaptation of the Fantastic Four) will hit theatres this summer. The movie is set to focus around Elastagirl's individual adventure(s), along with Mr. Incredible's struggle to care for his three children.

04. ENTERTAINMENT



ALBUM reviews

by Adrienne Jonathan



ON NOVEMBER 1ST IN 2017,

hip hop and rock band N.E.R.D (Pharrell Williams, Chad Hugo, and Shay Haley) released a single titled "Lemon" featuring R&B artist Rihanna after the band's seven year hiatus. The music video for the single (released on the same day) gained amazing headway, maintaining a spot in YouTube's top 10 trending during the first week of its release. Later, on December 15th the band released the full length album "No_One Ever Really Dies". The album contains guest appearances from: Future, Gucci Mane, M.I.A, and Ed Sheeran - to name a few. For rap/hiphop/R&B lovers that are thinking of adding this to their playlist, its important to mention that the album falls under the "experimental hip hop" genre. The album features many electronic beats, along with verses from the guests. Essentially, if you've heard "Lemon" or "1000", don't expect the whole album to have that same atmosphere. Unsurprisingly, an honourable mention from this album would be "Lemon". Along with the fantastically choreographed dance sequence, and Rihanna's first try at being an MC, the song just makes someone happy. If you're looking for a good time, that's the song you play.

Taylor Swift's reputation

by Lily McCowan

CAUSE SHE'S DEAD!

Taylor Swift's album dropped this past November with many long awaited months after hearing her singles; 'Look What You Made Me Do', a dark, rebelling and snarky single directed towards her trolls; 'Ready For It', representing her views on relationships, the new sense of her music and the easter eggs she plants in all of her lyrics; 'Gorgeous', sounding like the theme from Stranger Things, is a cute anthem about "hating" someone because they are so beautiful; and lastly, 'Call it What You Want', a look into the old Taylor, one out of two quieter songs off the album that show vulnerability.

Many people believe that this album is a snap back to Kimye, Katy Perry and all who have done her wrong, which is not false; there are a lot of songs on Reputation that represent whatever is going on behind the scenes and who is plotting against whom, like 'This Is Why We Can't Have Nice Things'. Be that as it may, there are also multiple songs that represent Taylor Swift's love life with actor Joe Alwyn, like 'New Year's Day', or that are about confessing to the rumours the media has been exposing, for example, 'I Did Something Bad'.

Taylor Swift is switching the persona that was displayed to the public; that we cannot deny, due to the famous lyric (which is now a meme) in 'Look What You Made Me Do', "The old Taylor can't come to the phone right now. Why? Oh, 'cause she's dead!" But the beats in 1989 are still heard in Reputation with the iconic lyrics from 'Red' and self written album 'Speak Now'. Altogether, this album deserves respect from the music community. To say that Swift has outdone herself is an understatement; she's gone way further than she did with 1989, which won album of the year in 2016, so imagine what she can do now! Keep on going Taylor!

reputation



The Royal Gazette

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